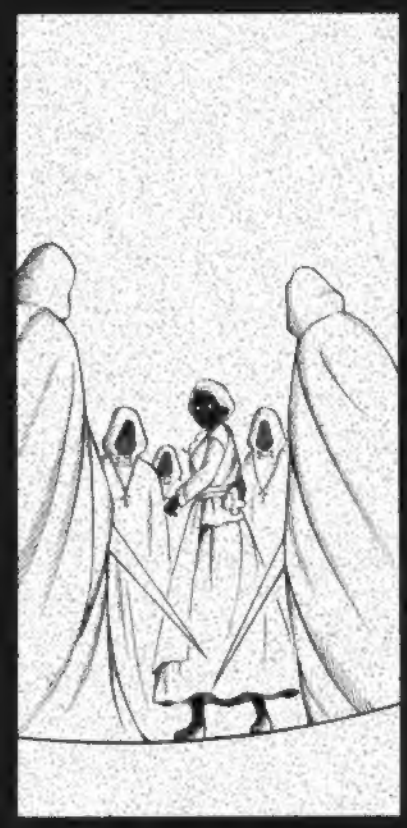
JUN MOCHIZUKI

THE CASE STUDY OF VANITAS

INHUMAN BEINGS, WHOSE ORIGINS ARE THOUGHT TO LIE IN "BABEL," THE UNPARALLELED CALAMITY...
THEIR PENCHANT FOR BLOOD SPARKED COMPARISONS WITH THE TRADITIONS OF EASTERN EUROPE, AND THEY CAME TO BE CALLED "VAMPIRES." IN ADDITION...
...THEY WERE POSSESSED OF RED EYES THAT HELD SPECIAL POWERS.
IT WAS SAID...
...THAT THOSE RED EYES WERE ABLE TO INTERFERE WITH THE "WORLD FORMULA," THE FORMULA THAT GAVE STRUCTURE TO EVERYTHING IN EXISTENCE.
BY INTERFERING WITH AND REWRITING THE WORLD FORMULA, THEY PROVOKED PHENOMENA THAT COULD BE TERMED "MAGIC."
THIS WAS NOT LIMITED TO TRANS-FORMING OR STRENGTH-ENING THEIR OWN BODIES.
STRONGER VAMPIRES WERE SAID TO BE ABLE TO PRODUCE FLAME OR ICE FROM EMPTY SPACE.
HYOOO (SWOOSH)
BUA (SWOOSH)



PEOPLE FEARED THEIR POWER...

...AND THE CHURCH DEFINED VAMPIRES AS "THOSE WHO WARP THE PRINCIPLES OF THE WORLD GOD HAS CREATED."

IT WAS THEN THAT HUMANS BEGAN HUNTING VAMPIRES.

JUN MOCHIZUKI

THE CASE STUDY OF VANITAS

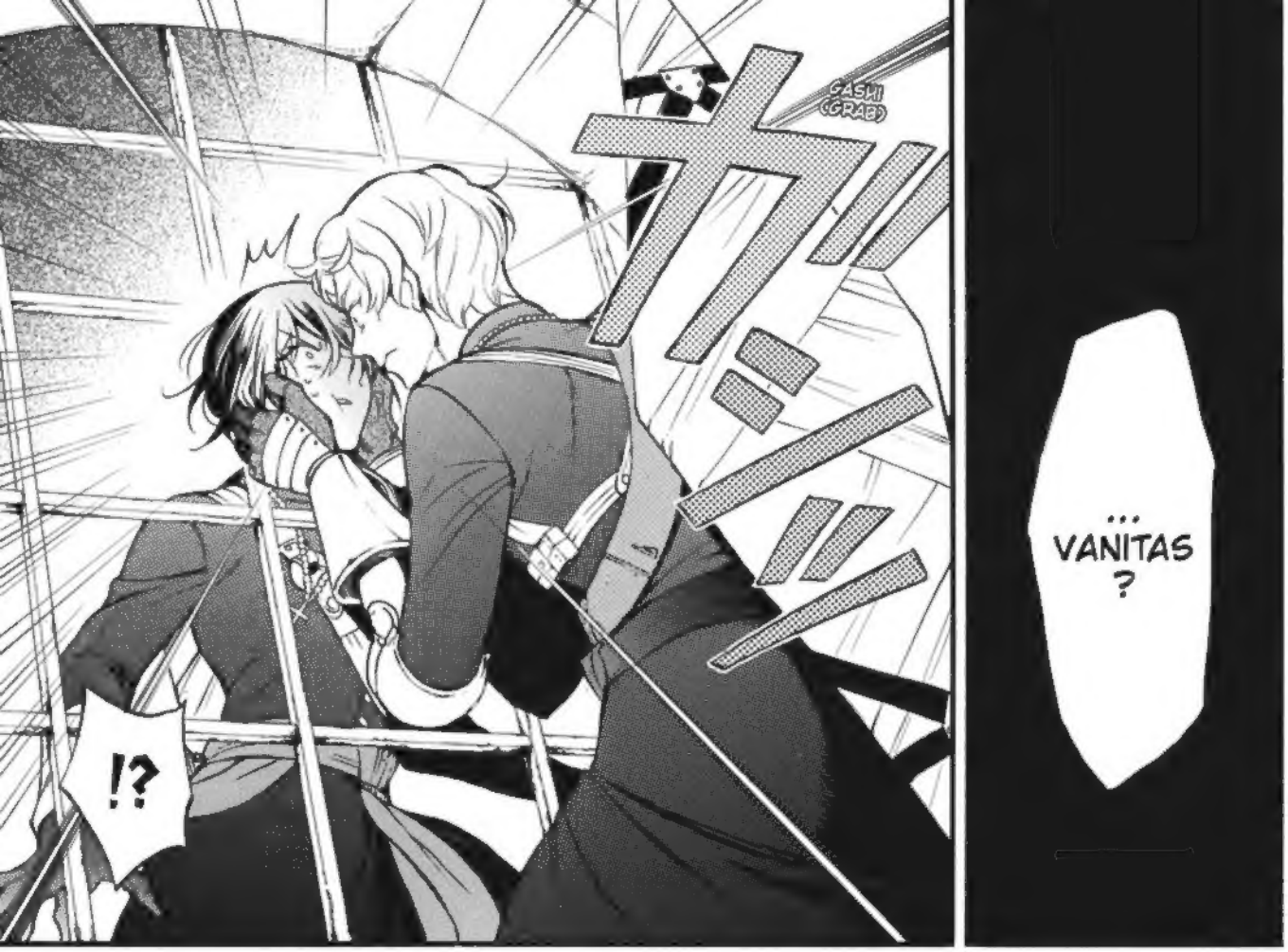
Mémoire 15 Chasseur THOSE WHO HUNT CRIMSON

HFF...
HFF...
ZA
ZA
ZA
ZA (KESH)
... I FEEL ... SICK ...
EVERYTHING'S BLURRING TOGETHER...
MY VISION...
NOÉ, FALL BACK FOR NOW! DON'T TRY TO FIGHT LIKE THAT!
HFF...
YORO (STAGGER)
FURA (TOTTER)
HUH?
NO...NO WAY I'M LEAVING YOU HERE ...

VANITAS!
YOU ALWAYS —
YOU SHOULD BE MORE STRAIGHT-FORWARD WITH YOUR EXPLANA-TIONS!!
DOES THIS LOOK LIKE A GOOD TIME TO WORRY ABOUT OTHERS!?
YOU WASTED MY WARNING RIGHT OFF THE BAT, YOU MORON!!

WAIT.

WHAT ...
...DID YOU JUST SAY?


GASHI (GRAB)
!?
...
VANITAS
?

GU (GRIP)
GU
GU
...AND BLUE EYES...
BLACK HAIR...
WHA ...?
GU

WHAT THE—!? YES!!
YOU ARE VANITAS !!?
KUWA (GRAB)
VANITAS?
HUH?

OH...
OH!
OHHH...
!!!
MY GOD !!!
GABA (GLOMP)
MEU!?

HEY!
DID THAT VAMPIRE GET AHOLD OF YOUR WEAKNESS? HAS SOMEONE PRECIOUS TO YOU BEEN TAKEN HOSTAGE?
HUH?
SO THE STORIES ABOUT THE VAMPIRES USING YOUR POWER WERE TRUE.
O LORD... I THANK THEE FOR THY MAGNIFICENT GUIDANCE!
GI (STRAIN)
I NEVER DREAMED WE'D MEET SO SOON!
GIUUUU (SQUEEZE)
GW!
GW

TO THINK A BOY LIKE YOU WAS MADE INTO THE VAMPIRES'... THE BLUE MOON'S KIN...
YOU POOR THING.
!
GA (SCRATCH)
YOU PEOPLE REALLY DO NOT CHANGE.
THOSE EYES THAT SELFISHLY PITY OTHERS, UNCON-SCIOUSLY LOOKING DOWN ON THEM...
LISTEN!
I NEVER ACT AGAINST MY OWN WISHES.
THE FACT THAT I'M WITH THE VAMPIRES, THAT I INFILTRATED THIS PLACE, THAT I JUST HURT YOU—
I DID THEM ALL OF MY OWN ACCORD!
JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE UNDER THE THUMB OF YOUR SO-CALLED GOD, DON'T ASSUME I'M THE SAME!!

POTA (PLIP)

DEAR LORD... PLEASE HAVE MERCY ON HIM.
SNURF... UU...
I AM SURE ...
...HE KNOWS NOT WHAT HE DOES!
UU...
YOU POOR THING!
PORO (DRIP)
PORO
YOU...

OPEN YOUR EYES, VANITAS!
BURUA (SNURFLE)
IF YOU TURN YOUR BACK ON THE LIGHT, GOD'S WORDS WON'T REACH YOUR HEART!
LISTEN TO MY WORDS BEFORE YOU LISTEN TO GOD!!
COME, LOOK AT ME!
GASHI (GRAB)
!?
PLEASE, KNOW GOD'S LOVE THROUGH ME!!
HUH ...!?
PAAA (GLEAM)
EVEN IF YOU STRAY FROM THE PATH ...
...THE LORD WILL NEVER ABANDON YOU!!
IT'S ALL RIGHT. THERE'S NOTHING TO FEAR!

I SWEAR TO YOU!
I WILL SAVE YOU FROM THE VAMPIRES' FIENDISH CLUTC—
CREEPY!!!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU!? YUCK!
THAT'S REALLY GROSS !!!!
PACHIN (SNAP)
NOW, THEN ...

!
BASA (FLAP)

LET'S GO...
...
"DURANDAL."

NOÉ!!
IF IT'S LIKE THIS, I THINK I CAN—
MY VISION HAS GOTTEN CALMER THAN A MINUTE AGO.
THAT'S... A SPEAR ?

HUH?

BYU (WHIRR)
!?
FAST...
DON'T THINK OF CHAS-SEURS AS HUMAN !!
THEY BOOST THEIR BASIC COMBAT ABILITIES WITH DRUGS!
I TOLD YOU ...!

SAY THOSE THINGS FIRST!!
GOOH (FOOM)

HYU (WHIRR)
DO (WHUD)
GHK!

!
ZUPA (SPAK)

IN THAT CASE ...
FROM WHAT I SAW EARLIER, THERE WASN'T ANY SORT OF LEVER ON THE WALL.

...THE MECHANISM THAT WORKS THIS CELL MUST BE IN THAT CANDLESTICK!
(ZIP)

I'VE NEVER SEEN A VAMPIRE MOVE THIS WELL JUST AFTER GETTING HIT BY THAT LIGHT BEFORE.
THAT'S AMAZING.

...
NO VAMPIRE THAT ENTERS THIS PLACE IS ALLOWED TO LIVE!
I ALREADY TOLD YOU.
WAIT, PLEASE! LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY FIRST...

CLINK
YOU'RE RUNNING?
I'M AT A DISADVANTAGE HERE.
I'LL GET SOME DISTANCE AND WAIT FOR MY BODY TO HEAL—
IN CITIES...
...HUMANS DON'T LISTEN TO PEOPLE EITHER!? IT ISN'T JUST THE VAMPIRES!?

YOU COWARD.

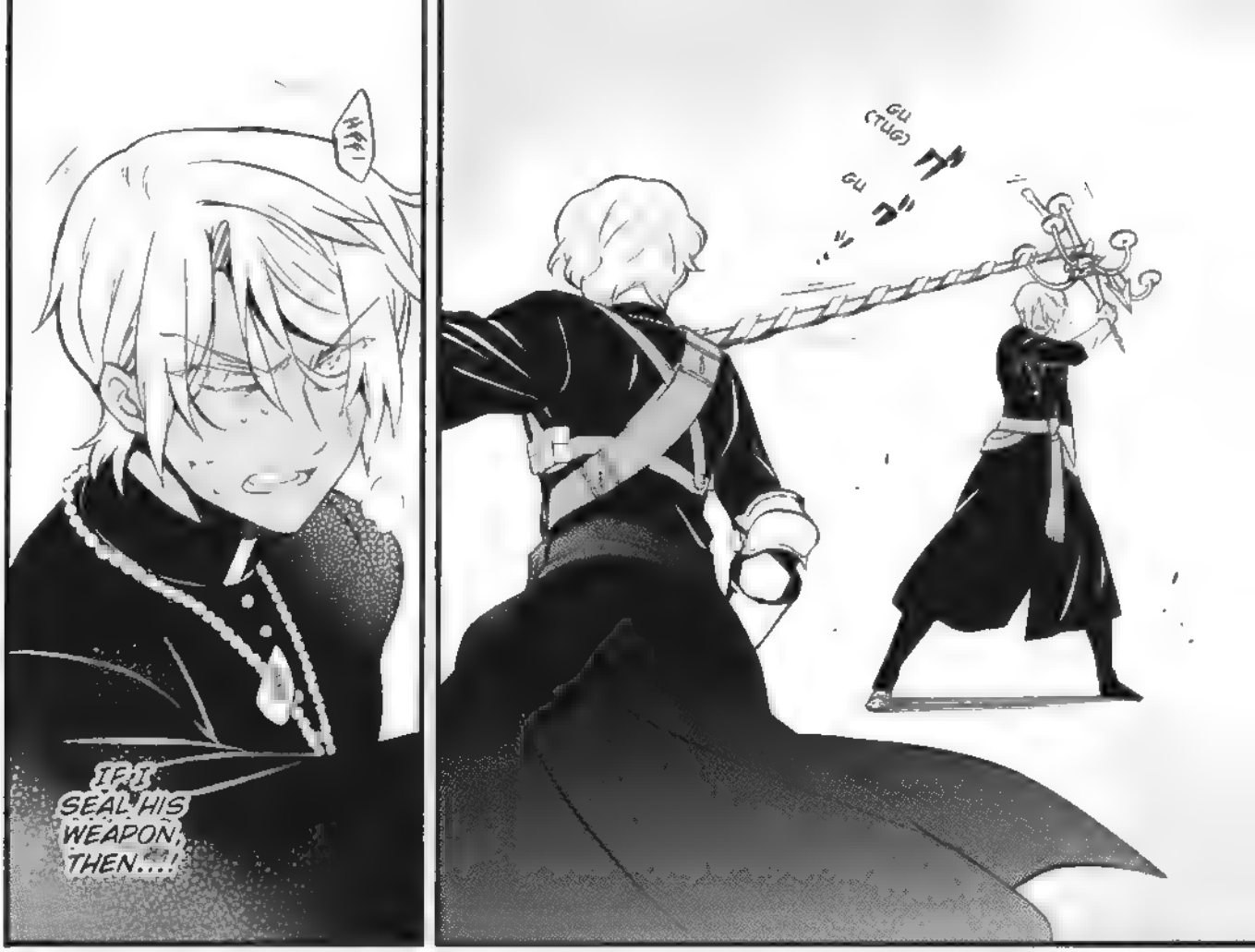
ZUPA
(SLASH)

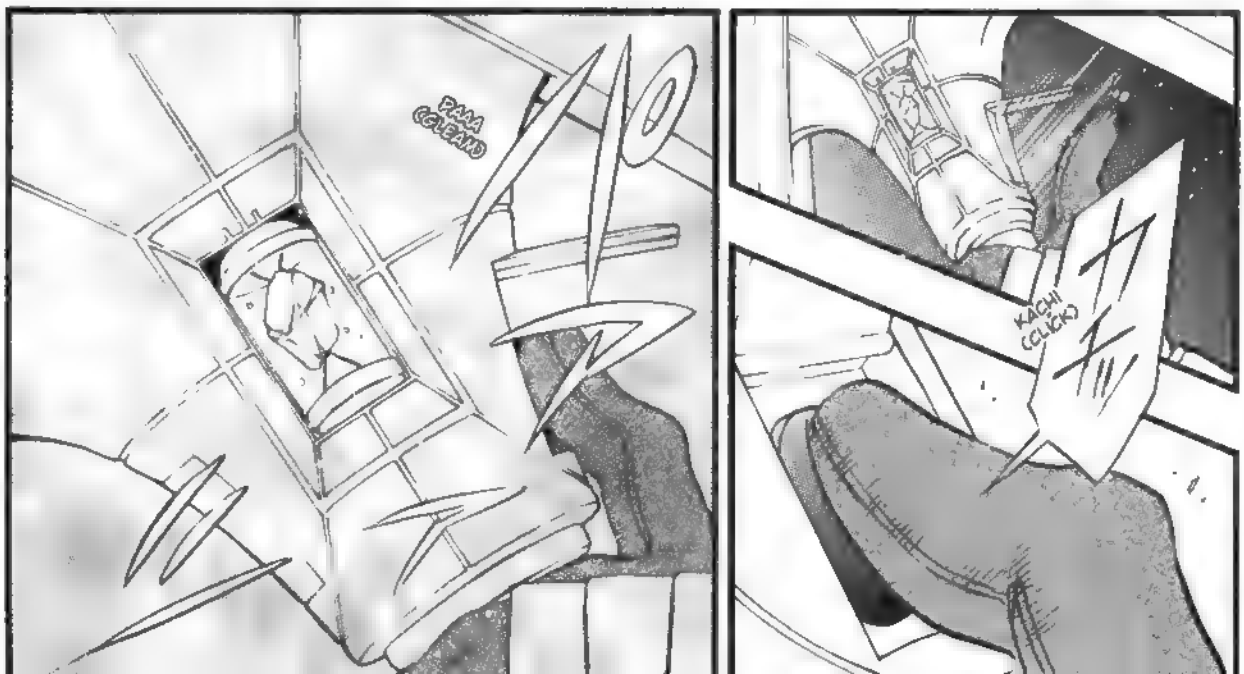
WHA
...?
THE
BLADES...

GAKIN (CLANG)
THEY'RE LIKE WHIPS!
I WON'T LET YOU ESCAPE...
...VAMPIRE.

!
DO (THUD)
DO
TAN (TMD)
DO (SWISH)
MISH! (KRIK)

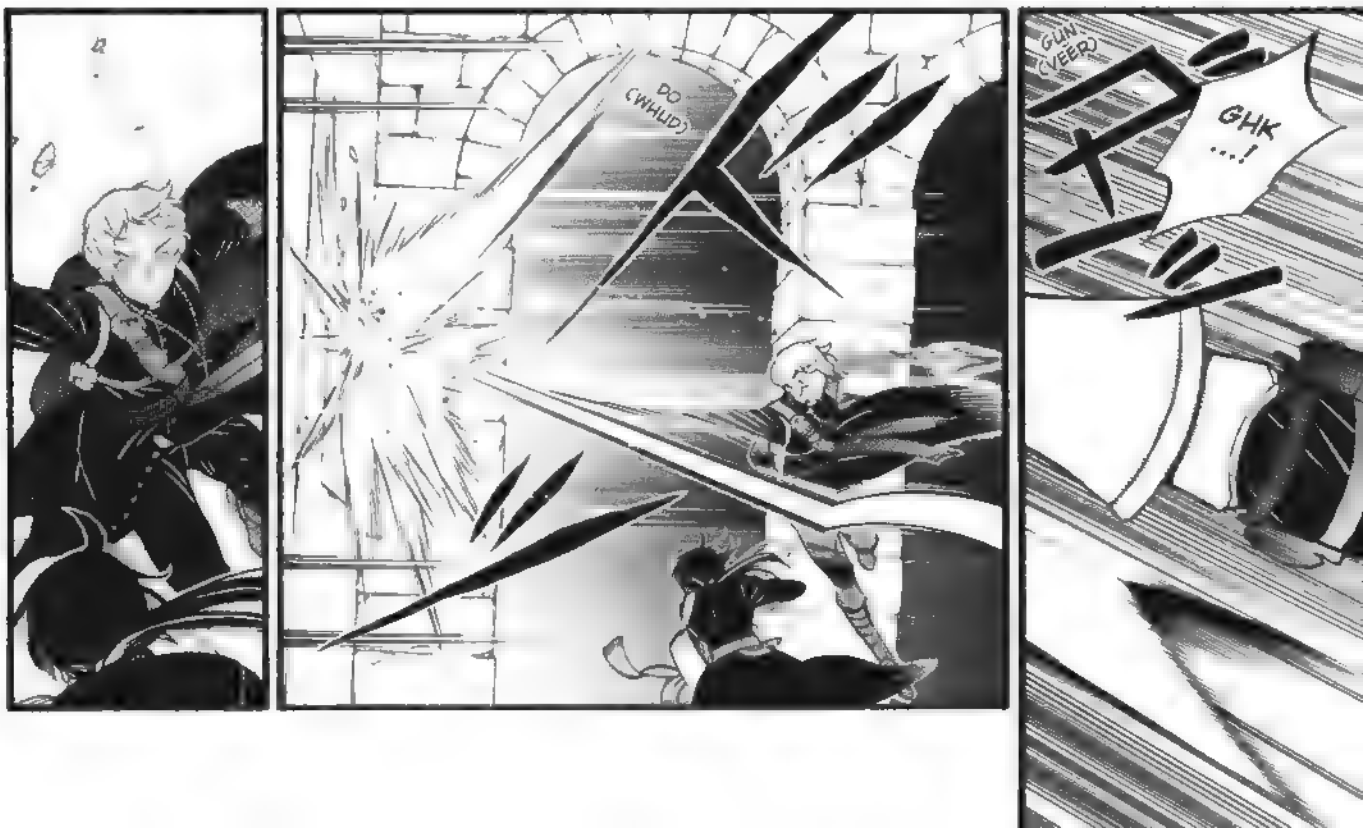
GO (FOOM)
BA (LEAP)
!
GU (TUG)
GYURUN (TWIRL)


IF I SEAL HIS WEAPON, THEN....!
GU (TUG)
GU


PAAA (GLEAM)
KACHI (CLICK)

BACHI
BACHI
BACHI (KRAK!)
!?
IT'S OVER.
PSHHH (PSHOO)
...WAS THAT...?
WHAT...

HUH?
AH!?

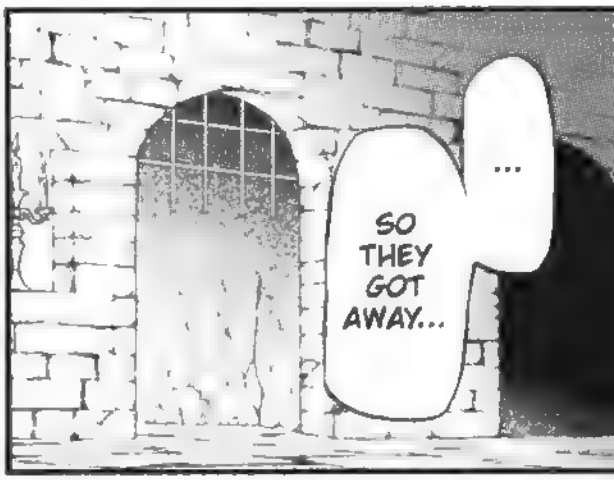

DO (WHUD)
GUN (VEER)
GHK...!

GASHI (GRAB)
!
AAAAAAAAAH!
DOGO! (WHUD)
GARA (CLATTER)
GARA

PERO (LICK)

PARA (RATTLE)
OW, OW, OW...

CAPTAIN LAURENT, WHAT WAS THAT NOISE!?
OH! CAPTAIN, THERE YOU ARE!

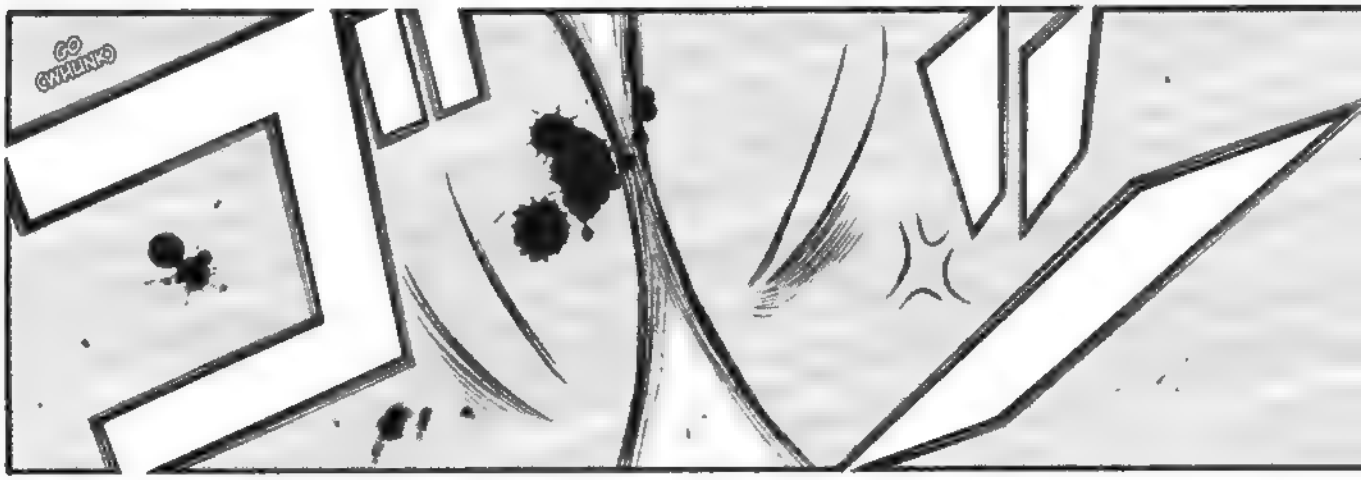

...
SO THEY GOT AWAY...

HA-HA-HA! CORRECT!
SINCE IT WAS YOU, CAPTAIN, WE THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE LOST.

I'M GLAD YOU CAME TO GET ME.
HULLO, MARIA, GEORGES.
WHAT!?
OH, NO... YOU'RE BLEEDING!
TA
TA
TA
TA (TMP)

ONE WAS A VAMPIRE.
ON THE WAY, I DISCOVERED TWO INTRUDERS.
ZAWA (RUSTLE)
IN THAT CASE ...
GACHIN (CLANK)
DID YOU TWO COME ARMED?
YES... JUST IN CASE SOMETHING HAD HAPPENED TO YOU, SIR.
VERY GOOD.

...WE HUNT.


GO GWWLINK

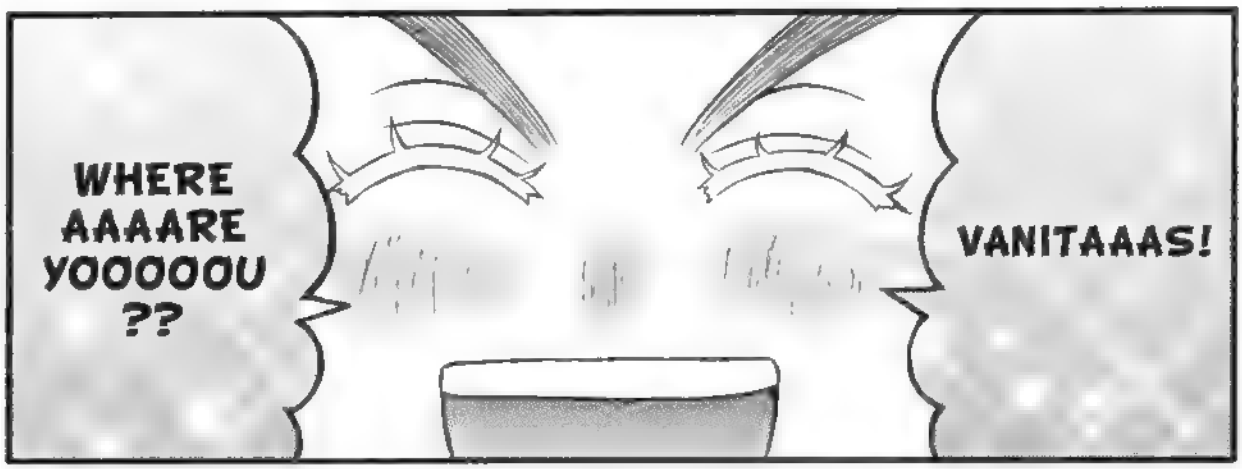
LISTEN.
OWWWWW!?

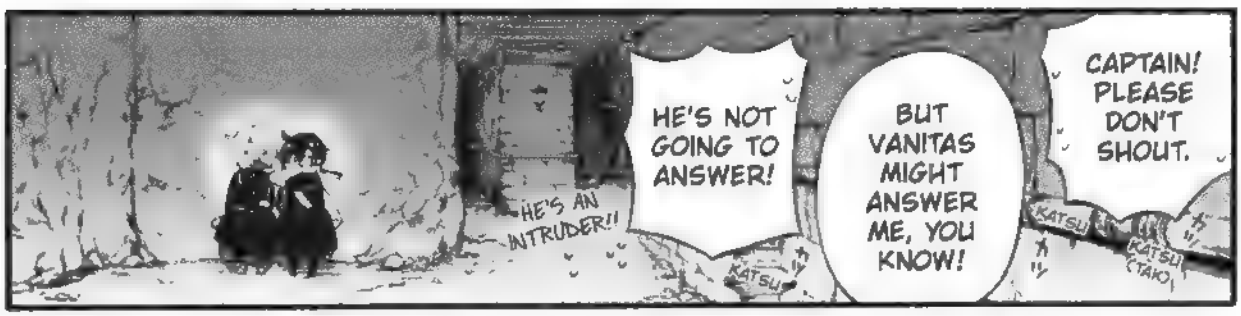
HUH?
I'M ASKING YOU WHY YOU TRIED TO PROTECT ME!
WHAT EXACTLY WERE YOU TRYING TO DO BACK THERE!?
I'VE THOUGHT THIS BEFORE, BUT VANITAS ...
...YOU'RE FAR TOO CARELESS ABOUT PUTTING YOURSELF IN HARM'S WAY!
I DID IT BECAUSE I KNEW THAT GUY WOULDN'T KILL ME.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?
EVERYTHING!
PLEASE BE AWARE THAT YOU ARE WEAK!
BLUCHI (SNAP)
WHY YOU...
GOT THE FORMATION I WANTED MOST
THIS IS FINE
HUHN ?
YOU ARE HUMAN.
UNLIKE VAMPIRES, ONE FALSE STEP AND YOU'RE DEAD, JUST LIKE THAT.

WHEN ONE HEARS "SHUT YOUR EYES," ONE GENERALLY THINKS THE OPPONENT WILL PHYSICALLY DAMAGE THEM!
AND THAT'S WHAT I MEANT! I DIDN'T KNOW THEY'D MADE FLASH BOMBS LIKE THAT EITHER.
HUH?
THIS ALL HAPPENED BECAUSE YOUR EXPLANATION WAS VAGUE!
AND JUST WHO WAS IT WHO GOT DRIVEN INTO A CORNER BY ONE OF THOSE HUMANS!?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU'RE THE SORT OF IDIOT WHO'LL PUT TOO MUCH FAITH IN YOUR POWER, CHARGE AHEAD WITHOUT THINKING, AND DESTROY YOURSELF!
HUH !?
AND ANYWAY, I DON'T WANT TO HEAR THAT LINE FROM YOU, OF ALL PEOPLE!
!
STOP IT... DON'T... TOUCH HIM!!
I'M TALKING ABOUT WHEN YOU GOT BETWEEN ME AND RUTHVEN!

WAIT ...
THAT FACE.
NEXT TIME YOU DO THAT, I'LL RETURN YOU TO ASHES MYSELF!!
THAT WAS EXTREMELY IRRITATING!
HAH (GASP)
I THINK I'VE SEEN IT BEFORE...
HUH?
HE WANTS TO USE ME AS A SHIELD, BUT HE DOESN'T WANT ME TO SHIELD HIM OF MY OWN ACCORD...??
NO, BUT...
HE ORIGINALLY WANTED ME TO GO WITH HIM TO ACT AS HIS SHIELD.
HUH?
COULD IT BE...
... HEY.
WHAT IS IT?
?
WHAT IS WHAT?
YOU'RE ANGRY ABOUT SOME-THING.
HUH ...?
WAS THAT WHY VANITAS WAS ANGRY BACK THEN? BECAUSE I'D PROTECTED HIM...!?
... YOU HAVE SOMETHING YOU WANT TO SAY TO ME, DON'T YOU?
NO.

WHAT?!!
WHOA...
YOU'RE AN INCREDIBLY FINICKY PERSON...!


WHERE AAAARE YOOOOOU ??
VANITAAAS!


HE'S AN INTRUDER!!
HE'S NOT GOING TO ANSWER!
KATSU
BUT VANITAS MIGHT ANSWER ME, YOU KNOW!
CAPTAIN! PLEASE DON'T SHOUT.
KATSU
KATSU (TAIKO)

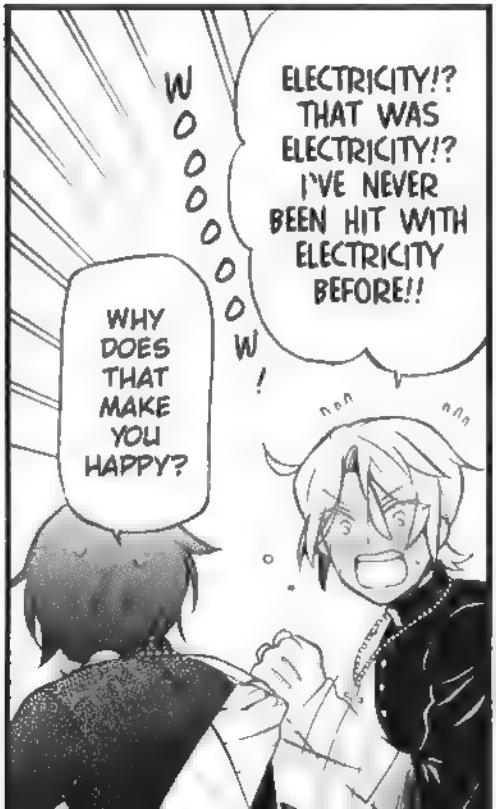
UGH! WHAT IS THAT LAURENT FELLOW, ANYWAY !?

THE ECHOES MAKE IT HARD TO JUDGE DISTANCE, BUT...
...PROB-ABLY.
ARE THEY GONE?
.....
.....

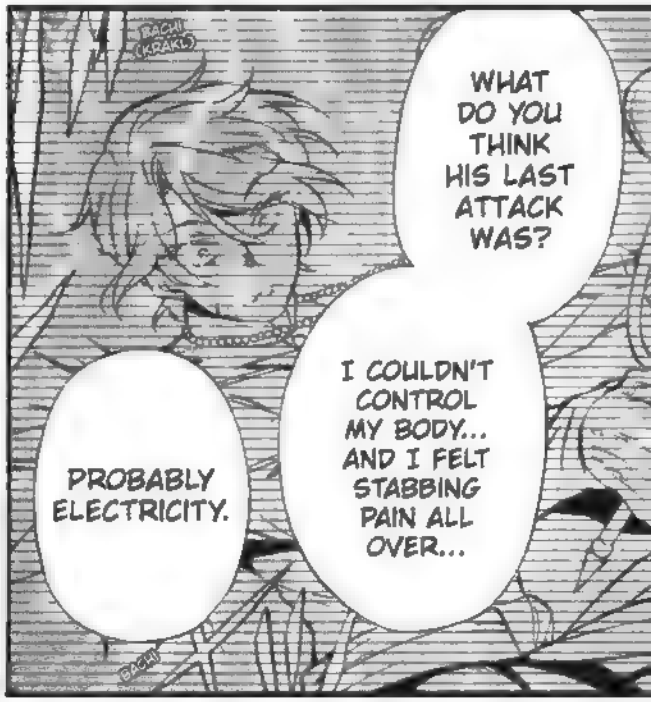
AAAA-AAARGH, CREEPY !!
ZOWAWA (BRRR)
YOU SAW THEM TOO, DIDN'T YOU? THOSE EYES, BRIMMING WITH GOODWILL...!
PFFT!
PROVOCATION, REFUSAL... THEY INTERPRET EVERYTHING TO THEIR OWN CONVENIENCE.
THAT'S THE TYPE THAT'S HARDEST TO DEAL WITH. SANCTIMONIOUS IDIOTS WHO WON'T TAKE MY MALICE AS MALICE.
HA HA HA HA!

HA HA HA HA!
...HAVE TYPES OF PEOPLE YOU'RE BAD WITH!
SO EVEN YOU ...
HA-HA!
AH, I'M SORRY.

THAT'S... A GREAT PERSONALITY YOU HAVE THERE.
KEH HEH...
...HIM.
WELL, THAT'S JUST FINE. PERSONALLY, I'VE RATHER STARTED TO LIKE...
HAAAH...


WHY DOES THAT MAKE YOU HAPPY?
WOOOOOOW!
ELECTRICITY!? THAT WAS ELECTRICITY!? I'VE NEVER BEEN HIT WITH ELECTRICITY BEFORE!!

HUH?


BACHI (KRAK)
WHAT DO YOU THINK HIS LAST ATTACK WAS?
I COULDN'T CONTROL MY BODY... AND I FELT STABBING PAIN ALL OVER...
PROBABLY ELECTRICITY.
BACHI

I'D WAGER THAT LIGHT DISTURBS THE FUNCTION OF VAMPIRES' EYES, PREVENTING THEM FROM REWRITING THE WORLD FORMULA.
KA (FLASH)
...
HOW ARE YOUR EYES?
THEY'RE MUCH BETTER, BUT...
...REALITY AND THE WORLD OF FORMULAS STILL SEEM MIXED, AND IT MAKES ME FEEL SICK.
NOÉ. YOU REINFORCE YOUR BODY DURING FIGHTS, DON'T YOU?
CAN YOU DO ANYTHING ELSE BY INTERFERING WITH THE WORLD FORMULA?
...
IF I TRY HARD, I CAN STAND ON A WALL OR THE CEILING. THAT'S ABOUT IT.
MY TEACHER TRAINED ME IN IT. HE SAID I SHOULD LEARN TO DO THAT MUCH AT LEAST, BUT HONESTLY, I'M NOT GOOD AT IT.
YOU CAN DO IT!
HE TALKS AS IF IT'S EASY, BUT THAT'S REWRITING GRAVITY, YOU KNOW?
IT'S INSANE
...
CAN YOU BEAT HIM?
THAT MAN. LAURENT.

BUT...
I DON'T KNOW.
...WE CAN.
TOGETHER.
HA!

WHAT IS IT?
...?
SUKU (RISE)
... NOTH-ING.
HA (GASP)
KATAN (RATTLE)
カチャ
IT FELT... AS THOUGH WE WERE BEING WATCHED ...
I CAME HERE...
...TO FIND A CERTAIN MAN.
NOÉ.

HIS NAME IS MOREAU.
HE GREW OBSESSED WITH HIS RESEARCH ON VAMPIRES AND WAS EXPELLED FROM THE CHASSEURS BECAUSE OF HIS MADNESS.
KURU (FLIP)
LOOK AT THE BACK.
LOOK AT THIS.
? THE BUTTON DANTE GAVE YOU?
IT'S A "PROJECT NUMBER."
... NUMBER 128?

THESE INCIDENTS... THE VAMPIRES WEREN'T TAKEN BY REGULAR CHASSEURS.
THEY WERE REINFORCED HUMANS MOREAU CREATED THROUGH HUMAN EXPERI-MENTATION.
HIS "PROJECTS."
NNNNNNNN??
NNNNNNNN!??

NNNNNNNNNN??
NNNNN?
KURU (TWIRL)
KURU
WHO MIGHT THOSE TWO BE?
I THINK I'VE SEEN THE BLACK-HAIRED ONE BEFORE... OR MAYBE I HAVEN'T.
GAKON (KACLUNK)

A BLACK-HAIRED... YOUTH...
HE USES THAT ALIAS.
VANITAS.
... VANITAS ?
PITA (HALT)
NNNNNNNNN??
GURU (SPIN)
GURU
GURU
GURU
GURU
GURU

AAAH, I SEE, YES, THAT'S RIGHT! I REMEMBER! THE BOY FROM BACK THEN, HM!?
NNAAAAAAAAH!!!

THE BOY VANITAS STOLE FROM ME THAT DAY!
MY PRECIOUS TEST SUBJECT!!
WELCOME BACK!
WELCOME BACK!
WELCOME-WELCOME BACK!!
YOU'RE KIDDING! HUH!? WOOOOOOW !!
TO THINK YOU'D COME BACK!! I NEVER DREAMED...!! WAAAAAAAH!
AND SUCH YOUNG CHILDREN ...
...WHAT CRUELTY.

...COME WITH ME TOO?

WILL YOU...

WELL?

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?

TO BE CONTINUED...

The Case Study of Vanitas
Chapter 15

Jun Mochizuki

Translation: Taylor Engel • Lettering: Bianca Pistillo

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